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y. Smith  
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Atty. Docket No. 201-0309 GPB (FOR25 P-347)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 3611  
Examiner : Kevin Hurley  
Applicant : Aaron L. Mills et al.  
Appln. No. : 09/683,703  
Filing Date : February 5, 2002  
Confirmation No. : 6453  
For : STEER-BY-WIRE STEERING SYSTEM  
WITH ROTATION LIMITER

MS Box AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUN 30 2003  
**GROUP 3600**

Dear Sir:

REPLY AFTER FINAL

Responsive to the Final Office Action mailed May 8, 2003, in the above-identified application, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

In this Reply, there are no further amendments to the claims. Accordingly, claims 1-20 remain present in this application. Applicants respectfully request re-examination and allowance of the present application.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-12, 14-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanger, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 1,083,399). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons presented below.

Before discussing this rejection, it is important to appreciate Applicants' invention and the advantages realized therefrom. The present invention is directed to a steer-by-wire steering system for steering one or more steering members, particularly road wheels on a vehicle. The steering system includes a steering input device, such as a steering wheel, rotatable by an operator to command steering of the road wheels, and a rotatable steering input shaft mechanically connected to the steering input device. The steering input shaft rotates responsive to rotation of the steering wheel. Disposed proximate to the steering input shaft is a support member. A male member is formed in one of the steering input shaft and the support member, and a female receptacle is formed in the other of the steering input shaft and